

☞ Daily Renewal

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

The story is told of a man who was walking across the road when he was hit by a car. The impact knocked him on his head which caused him to be in a coma for a couple of days before he finally regained consciousness. When he opened his eyes, his loving wife was there beside his bed holding his hand.

He said, "You know, Judy, you've always been right by my side. When I was a struggling college student, I failed again and again. But you were always there with me, encouraging me to go on trying."

He said, "And when I got out of school and went for all of my interviews and failed to get any of the jobs, you stayed right there with me, cutting out more classifieds for me to check on..."

"Then I started work at this little firm and finally got the chance to handle a big contract. But I blew it because of one little mistake, and yet you were there beside me all the way. Then I finally got another job after being laid off for some time. But I never seemed to be promoted and my hard work was never recognized. And so, I remained in the same position from the day I joined the company until now... And, through it all, you were right there by my side."

Her eyes are starting to fill with tears as she listens. He says, "And now I've been in this accident and when I woke up, you're the first person I see. There's something I'll really like to say to you...."

He said, "Judy, I think you're just plain bad luck!"

Not what she was expecting to hear...

I wonder if that's what God hears from us, too. He walks with us through our hardships and the valley of death, through troubles, tribulations, and difficult times, and instead of thanking him for being there, we turn our back, we raise our fist, we say – why are you putting me through this? Don't you care, God?

When your troubles keep building upon each other will you cling to God during those times or will you turn away? Think about it. Is your faith strong enough to weather the hurricane of doubt and hardships? Will you stay fresh and strong in your faith?

We all face troubles of various kinds, but we can be renewed day by day.

1. ☞ Keep your Focus

--Aristotle Onassis... It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light.

--Bruce Lee... The successful warrior is the average man, with laser-like focus.

👉 **Focus on the future** (v. 17 glory)

The light at the end of the tunnel.

--Corrie Ten Boom... *Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.*

2 Corinthians 5:1 *(but we do know some things about our future)*

Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

Revelation 21:3-5

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4** He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." **5** He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

Revelation 22:4-5

They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **5** There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light.

👉 **Focus on faith** (v. 18 unseen)

A man fell off a cliff, but managed to grab a tree limb on the way down. The following conversation ensued:

"Is anyone up there?"

"I am here. I am the Lord. Do you believe me?"

"Yes, Lord, I believe. I really believe, but I can't hang on much longer."

"That's all right, if you really believe you have nothing to worry about. I will save you. Just let go of the branch."

A moment of pause, then: "Is anyone else up there?"

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. NKJV

2 Corinthians 5:7

We live by faith, not by sight.

Trust God and keep your focus on him!

☞ **Focus on forever** (v. 18 eternal)

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

1 Peter 1:4

...an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you,

Revelation 22:5

And they will reign for ever and ever.

Keep your Focus! We have a fantastic future that will be forever if we keep the faith.

2. ☞ **Keep Facing troubles firmly**

4:7-9 “we are hard pressed on every side” – sometimes that’s how trouble comes at us...

Life is not about avoiding troubles but about surmounting difficulties and overcoming obstacles. Those who have never faced problems have never lived.

Are troubles working for you or against you? Are you traumatized or transformed by troubles? Do you thank God in advance and in faith for the grace that is ever increasing?

☞ **Pressed, but not Defeated** (“between a rock and a hard place”)

☞ **Perplexed, but not Despairing** (life doesn’t often make sense)

☞ **Persecuted, but not Deserted** (Jesus is always with us, Heb. 13:5)

☞ **Pounded, but not Destroyed** (God comforts the downcast, 2 Cor. 7:6)

In all of our troubles God is always near and caring for us.

There's an Ozark story about a hound sitting in a country store and howling as hounds do. In comes a stranger who says to the storekeeper, "What's the matter with the dog?" "He's sitting on a cocklebur." "Why doesn't he get off of it?" "He'd rather holler." (Instead...)

☞ **Accentuate the Positive** by Bing Crosby

*You've got to accentuate the positive
Eliminate the negative
Latch on to the affirmative
Don't mess with Mister In-Between*

v. 16 We do not lose heart in spite of outwardly wasting away

v. 17 These are only light and momentary troubles

--Church Swindoll... Every problem is an opportunity to prove God's power. Every day we encounter countless golden opportunities, brilliantly disguised as insurmountable problems.

3. 📌 **Keep the Faith**

Faith is fundamental to our Christian walk.

Hebrews 11:6

without faith it is impossible to please God,

It's faith that overcomes the world. (1 John 5:4)

Isaiah 40:31 (*hope, which is faith in the future, is what renews us*)
those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

2 Timothy 1:6 (*in reference to Timothy's sincere faith...*)

I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you...

📌 **Rehearse the Truth** v. 13 Believe and speak

Psalms 145:13

The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.

Do you really believe this? Then speak it out.

Ephesians 4:15

speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

📌 This "speaking the truth" is not just about avoiding lies; it's about **saying what God says**.

Don't say, "It's impossible" because with God "All things are possible." (Luke 18:27)

Don't say, "I can't go on" because God says, "My grace is sufficient for you."
(2 Corinthians 12:9)

Don't say, "I can't do it" because God says, "I can do all things through Christ."
(Philippians 4:13)

Don't say, "I'm afraid" because God says, "I have not given you a spirit of fear."
(2 Timothy 1:7)

Don't say, "I'm worried and frustrated" because God says, "Cast all your cares on ME."
(1 Peter 5:7)

Don't say, "I'm not smart enough" because God says, "I give you wisdom."
(1 Corinthians 1:30)

Don't say, "I am all alone" because God says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
(Hebrews 13:5)

Don't say, "It's not worth it" because God says, "It will be worth it." (Roman 8:2)

Remember Tomorrow

v. 14 We will be raised

Romans 8:11

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

v. 14 We will be in his presence

Psalms 16:11 speaks of the joy and pleasure in his presence. And Psalms 89:15 speaks of the light of his presence.

1 Thessalonians 4:17

we will be with the Lord forever.

You can be Renewed Daily:

Keep your Focus; Keep Facing troubles Firmly; Keep the Faith.